

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOUREN 00867 131646Z

43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /155 W

----- 122573

R WQEPWPZ DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2261

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MZ

SUBJECT: POLITICAL DETAINEES IN MOZAMBIQUE

REF: STATE 237300

1. PRECISE INFORMATION ON NUMBER AND TREATMENT OF POLITICAL DETAINEES IN MOZAMBIQUE IS CLOSELY HELD AND DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN. WHEN ASKED, DGS CONSISTENTLY UNDERSTATES TOTALS, AND OF COURSE DOES NOT ADMIT TO ANY MISTREATMENT. REPORTS OF BEATINGS, TORTURES, ETC. USUALLY COME FROM PREJUDICED SOURCES, BUT WE ASSUME THERE MUST BE SOME GROUNDS FOR SUCH ALLEGATIONS. WE ARE VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT 10,000 FIGURE REPORTEDLY CLAIMED BY BURGOS FATHERS AS NUMBER NOW DETAINED, IS HIGHLY INFLATIONARY. DGS SPOKESMAN WAS REPORTED IN NOTICIAS OF DECEMBER 8 AS SAYING MORE THAN 400 PERSONS IMPRISONED IN MOZAMBIQUE FOR REASONS OF SECURITY, COMPRISING ABOUT ONE THIRD OF TOTAL OF THOSE THUS DETAINED, HAD BEEN SET FREE. THESE WERE NOT RELEASED AS RESULT OF RECENT AMNESTY, BUT AS "AN ACT OF JUSTICE" SINCE THESE PERSONS HAD REACHED POINT WHERE THEY "COULD BE REINTEGRATED INTO SOCIETY". DGS SPOKESMAN SAID 95 PERCENT OF RELEASED HAD BEEN REEMPLOYED

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2. RE MANNER OF HANDLING PRISONERS, IN PAST PORTUGUESE REPORTEDLY DOLED OUT QUITE HARSH TREATMENT, PROBABLY INCLUDING TORTURE. IN RECENT YEARS, AND PARTICULARLY SINCE SUICIDE OF PASTOR MANGANHELA, TREATMENT HAS, ACCORDING TO MOST OBSERVERS, SOFTENED CONSIDERABLY. OUR CONCLUSION, BASED ON ADHITTEDLY SLIM EVIDENCE, AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT POSSIBLE EXAGGERATIONS BY FREED AFRICAN PRISONERS, PLUS PROBABILITY THAT ANY ROUGH STUFF WOULD BE CAREFULLY HIDDEN BY AUTHORITIES, IS THAT OCCASIONAL BEATINGS STILL OCCUR, BUT PROBABLY ON SPONTANEOUS ANGER BASIS RATHER THAN COLD-BLOODED MEANS OF TORTURE. SOLITARY CONFINEMENT IS USED, BUT BAD AS THIS IS, IT MAY BE PREFERABLE TO OVERCROWDING OF CELLS WHICH ALSO REPORTEDLY OCCURS WITH SOME FREQUENCY. INTENSIVE INTERROGATION IS ALMOST CERTAINLY STILL CARRIED OUT, TOGETHER WITH USE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURES TO INDUCE CONFESSIONS.

3. STRANGELY ENOUGH, FRELIMO CAPTIVES SEEM TO BE FAR BETTER TREATED THAN THOSE ARRESTED ON SUSPICION OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. I HAVE VISITED PRISONS AT NICUADALA NEAR QUELIMANE, AND ON IBO ISLAND. NICUADALA IS IN EFFECT PRISON VILLAGE WITHOUT WALLS IN WHICH MAINLY NIANJA PRISONERS FROM NIASSA ARE KEPT, UNDER GUARD OF SINGLE, UNARMED PORTUGUESE POLICEMAN. PRISONERS LIVE IN REGULAR HUTS, WITH WIVES AND CHILDREN; THEY WORK ON SURROUNDING FARMS DURING DAYTIME, SELL PRODUCE IN NEARBY VILLAGE, AND SEEM TO CASUAL VISITOR TO LIVE NORMAL EXISTENCE NOT UNLIKE THAT IN REGULAR VILLAGES. IBO IS HISTORIC ISLAND NORTH OF PORTO AMELIA WHERE MAINLY MACONDE PRISONERS ARE HOUSED IN OLD FORT. WHILE SLEEPING QUARTERS ARE QUITE SPARTAN, PRISONERS WORK ON GARDENS, WOOD-CARVINGS, WEAVING, ETC. OUTSIDE FORT DURING DAY TIME, UNDER SURVEILLANCE OF SEVERAL PORTUGUESE DGS OFFICIALS SUPPORTED BY HALF DOZEN OR SO BLACK GUARDS. REPORTS OF CONDITIONS AT MACHAVA PRISON IN LOURENCO MARQUES, IN PORTION RESERVED FOR REHABILITATION OF FRELIMO PRISONERS, ARE CONSISTENT WITH ABOVE. PRISONERS CARRY ON HANDICRAFTS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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4. WE CONCLUDE THAT DESPITE CONTINUING RUMORS OF IMPROPER TREATMENT OF PRISONERS, PORTUGUESE DO HAVE SOME SURPRISINGLY MODERN AND HUMANE PRISON CONDITIONS TO EXHIBIT. WHICH DOES NOT MEAN THAT MORE HORRENDOUS ASPECTS DO NOT EXIST OUTSIDE THE PUBLIC EYE. ONE KNOWN DGS PRACTICE UNIVERSALLY CONDEMNED IS THAT OF ROUNDING UP ", AND INCARCERATING THEM FOR LONG PERIODS (YEARS IN SOME CASES) WITHOUT BRINGING THEM TO TRIAL, AND WITHOUT MAKING PUBLIC THE REASONS FOR SUCH DETENTION.

5. WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED AS FURTHER INFORMATION COMES TO LIGHT.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
@@@OASYS@@@<CONCATENATED>

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMNESTY, ARRESTS, PARAMILITARY FORCES, PENAL SYSTEM, POLITICAL PRISONERS, PRISONERS WELFARE, RELIGIOUS LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: <CONCATENATED>
Draft Date: 13 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LOUREN00867
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
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From: LOURENCO MARQUES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 237300
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 25 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <29-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980313
Subject: POLITICAL DETAINEES IN MOZAMBIQUE
TAGS: PINS, SOCI, MZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005